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A History of All Nations from the Earliest Times. General editor, JOHN HENRY WRIGHT, LL.D., Professor in Harvard University. Volumes VI., *The Great Migrations*, VII., *The Early Middle Ages*, and VIII., *The Age of Charlemagne*. (Philadelphia: Lea Brothers and Company. 1905. Pp. 415, 416, 332.)

THE publishers of this series have performed a real service in making a good universal history at last accessible to English readers. It is not likely that the general history will ever come to occupy in America the place which the German *Weltgeschichte* holds beside the family Bible, and those who have but a modest sum to spend on historical books may well find it wiser to get individual histories of distinguished excellence rather than comprehensive collections whose quality can never be of the highest. Still, general histories are sure to be bought, and it is much to be desired that they be works of real scholarship, like the *History of All Nations*, and not the dreary and untrustworthy compilations which have hitherto had possession of the field in English.

Of the three volumes discussed in this review, volumes VI. and VII. are by Dr. Julius von Pflugk-Harttung, Archivist of the Prussian Royal State Archives, formerly professor of history at the University of Basel, volume VIII. by Dr. Hans Prutz, professor of history in the University of Königsberg. The two volumes of Pflugk-Harttung are among the best of the series, and although subject to some correction from the progress of knowledge in the twenty years which have elapsed since they were begun, they can be commended to the teacher of history as well as to the general reader as one of the best accounts of the early Middle Ages to be found within the same limits of space. A specialist in the field of papal diplomatics, the author evidently succeeded in acquainting himself with the sources of information for the other phases of his subject, notably in the direction of prehistoric archaeology, to which more attention is given than is usual in books of history. The conditions of society among the early Germans and their relations with Rome are taken up with considerable fullness, nearly one-half of the first volume being given to the period before the great invasions. In relation to the work as a whole this seems rather disproportionate, but it should be welcomed because of the meagreness of material in English on this part of the field. The account of the migrations and the German kingdoms on Roman soil is not limited to conventional narrative, but the interaction of the two civilizations is emphasized, and special chapters deal with the institutions and culture of the new states. The church, on the other hand, hardly comes sufficiently into the foreground, and the Greek empire and Islam are dismissed with two scant chapters at the end. The brief description of the sources prefixed to the various sections is a praiseworthy feature. The principal general criticisms to be made upon the work are that the general plan involves some repetition and that the outlines are not always drawn with enough distinctness.

Prutz's *Age of Charlemagne* could be more appropriately discussed in connection with the following volumes of which he is the author. The title is misleading, since the volume extends to 1056 and gives but seventy pages to Charlemagne. The treatment is for the most part the conventional narrative of Frankish and German history, with two brief and inadequate summaries of civilization and a chapter on the East. As in most German histories, the account of the break-up of the Carolingian empire is vitiated by modern ideas of race and nationality, instead of being studied from the point of view of the ninth century; as when we are told that the partition of Verdun was "made pretty closely along national lines" (p. 134), and that the portions of Lotharingia "which were thus torn from their proper national environment [by the treaty of Meersen] strove to free themselves from this compulsory union with a foreign people, and to renew their connection with those of their own race" (p. 138).

The work of translation has been done with only moderate success. The style of the German popular history does not readily lend itself to English, even under the most flexible hands, and the hands of the translators have not always been flexible. It is not, for example, hard to see the German original behind a sentence like the following, where it is said of Gregory of Tours, "No other German people enjoys an approximately equal delineator of their inner life" (VII. 64). Here and there serious blunders betray an imperfect knowledge of German. Thus the paragraph on the early German codes (VII. 259) is made even more confusing than the original by translating *sonst* "furthermore", and by assuming—not unnaturally—from Pflugk-Harttung's statement that there are no extant manuscripts of the *Lex Frisionum* and the *Edict of Theodoric*, that these codes have been lost. The "Münster zu Aachen" becomes the "cathedral at Münster" (VIII. 83), and in the Omniad empire the "drei Erdtheile" between the Pyrenees and the Indus (VII. 407) appear as "three-quarters of the globe"!

The illustrations call for special praise, as they are reproductions of actual objects of the period, drawn in great profusion from a variety of authentic sources—manuscripts, coins, buildings, and archaeological remains of every sort. They have been recognized as one of the most valuable features of the German original, and nowhere else, least of all in a universal history, is so much valuable illustrative material for the study of this age placed before the English reader. There are also a number of maps. Each volume has an analytical table of contents, prepared by the editor, but lacks an index, a defect which is not atoned for by the promise of an index-volume to the series.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.